

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC UK
SUBJECT: INFORMATION RELATIVE TO EFFECTS OF OIL SHALE
ON HEALTH OF MINERS

REF: STATE 45144 (NOTAL)

1. HAVE RECEIVED FOLLOWING COMMENTS FROM W. H. WALTON,
INSTITUTE OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE, ROXBURGH PLACE,
EDINBURGH:

OIL SHALE EXTRACTION INDUSTRY IN SCOTLAND CEASED OPERA-
TION AROUND 1940. UNFORTUNATELY COMPANIES ARE DEFUNCT,
RECORDS LOST AND NO TRADES UNION RECORDS AVAILABLE.
FOLLOWING COMMENTS COME FROM A FEW SURVIVING MINERS
CONTACTED BY INSTITUTE.

OIL SHALE MINES HAD QUITE LARGE, WELL. VENTILATED GALLER-
IES. THESE WERE RELATIVELY CLEAN AND FREE OF DUST.
SURVIVORS CAN RECOLLECT NO SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR WORKERS
ASSOCIATED WITH DUST RELATED DISEASES.

DR. WALTON BELIEVES THAT SOME MEDICAL REPORTS WERE PRE-
PARED IN FIFTIES ON CARCINOGEN PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRY.
HE IS TRYING TO LOCATE THESE PAPERS. HOWEVER, HE THINKS
THESE WERE CONCERNED WITH THE EXTRACTION PHASE OF THE
INDUSTRY.

DR. WALTON SUGGESTS THAT BY ADVERTISING IN SCOTTISH
NEWSPAPERS IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO LOCATE A SUFFICIENT
POPULATION OF FORMER OIL SHALE MINERS TO ALLOW FOR
MEANINGFUL MEDICAL FOLLOW-UP. HE ASKS IF U.S. WOULD
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BE INTERESTED IN FUNDING SUCH A STUDY.

2. REGARDING VALIDITY OF COAL MINE DUST SAMPLING WITH MRE SAMPLER, UALTON CONFIRMS FOLLOWING DATA: INSTITUTE HAS TESTED A GROUP OF MRE INSTRUMENTS SIDE BY SIDE, IDENTICAL DUST CONDITIONS. IN THIS GROUP OF FIVE INSTRUMENTS, THE WORST INSTRUMENT, AS REGARDS VARIABILITY, PROVIDED RESULTS FOR WHICH 90 PERCENT OF THE READINGS WERE WITHIN 10 PERCENT OF THE MEAN FOR THE ENTIRE GROUP. THE AVERAGE SCATTER FOR THE WHOLE GROUP WAS PLUS OR MINUS SIX PERCENT. THE INSTITUTE NOW HAS A RESEARCH PROGRAM ON THE STRATEGY OF DUST SURVEILLANCE, IN WHICH MRE INSTRUMENTS ARE BEING COMPARED WITH PERSONAL SAMPLERS. THEY ARE IN CONTACT WITH EUGENE HARRIS, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH FOR EASTERN ASSOCIATED COALCORPORATION, WHICH IS PERFORMING A SIMILAR PROGRAM FOR BUREAU OF MINES.

SPIERS

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